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TRENDS

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, January 2, 1985 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended December 22 totaled an estimated 17.1 billion ton-miles, 23.3 percent above the corresponding week of 1983, which included Christmas Eve, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative traffic volume for the first 51 weeks of 1984 was an estimated 904.7 billion ton-miles, 10.7 percent higher than the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended December 22 totaled 378,225, up 17.7 percent from last year, but 2.3 percent below the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were up 2.3 percent in the East, 13.3 percent in the South, and 33.8 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1983, 15 of the 21 commodity groups increased. Coal loadings were up by 29,244 cars (35.1 percent) and loadings of grain showed a gain of 5,788 cars (25.8 percent). Fifteen of the 21 commodity groups decreased from the preceding week of this year.

## Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended December 15 totaled 57,441 cars, up 10.7 percent from the corresponding week of 1983, and 93,576 trailers and/or containers, 1.4 percent higher than last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 50 weeks of the year was 2,598,937 cars, 14.5 percent higher than last year, and 4,421,048 trailers and/or containers, up 11.9 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 12/22/84:

| | Loadings in Week ended Dec. 22, 1984 | | Change from Corresponding Week 1983 | | | Change from Preceding Week | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Cars | | Cars | Percent | | Cars | Percent |
| Grain | 28,184 | I | 5,788 | 25.8 | I | 441 | 1.6 |
| Other farm products | 4,159 | I | 593 | 16.6 | D | 521 | 12.5 |
| Metallic ores | 11,203 | D | 528 | 4.5 | D | 586 | 5.2 |
| Coal | 112,650 | I | 29,244 | 35.1 | D | 787 | 0.7 |
| Crushed stone, gravel and sand | 9,111 | I | 2,247 | 32.7 | D | 1,416 | 15.5 |
| Nonmetallic minerals | 10,346 | D | 8 | 0.1 | I | 190 | 1.8 |
| Grain mill products | 10,539 | I | 143 | 1.4 | D | 87 | 0.8 |
| Food and kindred products | 10,941 | I | 1,104 | 11.2 | D | 82 | 0.7 |
| Primary forest products | 12,357 | I | 1,107 | 9.8 | D | 1,746 | 14.2 |
| Lumber and wood products except furniture | 7,368 | I | 597 | 8.8 | I | 563 | 7.6 |
| Pulp, paper and allied products | 15,042 | I | 130 | 0.9 | I | 181 | 1.2 |
| Chemicals and allied products | 25,210 | I | 2,612 | 11.6 | I | 1,520 | 6.0 |
| Petroleum products | 5,052 | I | 511 | 11.3 | I | 107 | 2.1 |
| Stone, clay and glass products | 9,216 | I | 1,749 | 23.4 | D | 480 | 5.2 |
| Coke | 4,510 | D | 258 | 5.4 | D | 69 | 1.5 |
| Metals and products | 7,446 | D | 802 | 9.7 | D | 90 | 1.2 |
| Motor vehicles and equipment | 19,570 | I | 3,390 | 21.0 | D | 4,138 | 21.1 |
| Waste and scrap materials | 7,882 | I | 230 | 3.0 | D | 1,024 | 13.0 |
| Forwarder and shipper association traffic | 6,757 | D | 631 | 8.5 | D | 738 | 10.9 |
| All other carloads | 60,509 | I | 9,746 | 19.2 | D | 312 | 0.5 |
| LCL traffic | 173 | D | 34 | 16.4 | D | 8 | 4.6 |
| Total Cars Loaded | 378,225 | I | 56,930 | 17.7 | D | 9,082 | 2.3 |
| Corresponding week of 1983 | 321,295 | | | | | | |

| | 1984 | 1983 | % Change |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total Cars Loaded (51 weeks) | 20,015,157 | 18,582,096 | I 7.7 |
| Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions): | | | |
| 50 weeks ended December 15 | 887.6 | 803.4 | I 10.5 |
| Week ended December 22 | 17.1 | 13.9 | I 23.3 |
| 51 weeks cumulative | 904.7 | 817.3 | I 10.7 |

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